

REMARKS

Claims 25-52 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claims 1-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and Claims 25-52 are added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

The Office action rejects Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold (U.S. Patent No. 6,630,622, hereinafter “Konold”) in view of Inoue (U.S. Patent No. 5,480,494, hereinafter “Inoue), Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold and Inoue, and further in view of Middelmann et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0160243, hereinafter “Middelmann”), Claims 9-11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold and Inoue, and further in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,008,062, hereinafter “Anderson”), Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold, Inoue and Anderson, and further in view of Stern (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0034062, hereinafter “Stern”), Claims 16, 17, 19, 20 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold in view of Anderson, Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold and Anderson, and further in view of Middelmann, and Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Konold and Anderson, and further in view of Stern. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent Claims 1-24 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, new independent Claim 25 specifies, *inter alia*, a photovoltaic integrated building component comprising first solar cell laminate assembly and a second solar cell laminate assembly. Each laminate assembly includes a backplane assembly with a metal layer disposed between a solar cell assembly and a polymer substrate. The component further includes a sealing member with an electrical connector in electrical contact with the metal layer of the backplane assembly to provide electrical interconnection between the first and second solar cell laminate assemblies. Support for this feature can be found, for example, in Paragraphs [0022] – [0024] and [0032] of the specification and illustrated in Figures 1-9 of the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the applied art, taken singly or in combination. For at least this reason, Claims 24-42 are allowable over the applied art, taken singly or in combination.

New independent Claim 43 further specifies, *inter alia*, a frame disposed about a perimeter of the first and second solar cell laminate assemblies, wherein a portion of the metal layer extending from the frame defines an edge connector. The sealing member includes an electrical connector in electrical contact with the edge connector extending from the frame of each solar cell laminate assembly to provide electrical interconnection between the first and second solar cell laminate assemblies. Support for this feature can be found, for example, in Paragraphs [0036] – [0039] of the specification and illustrated in Figures 7-9 of the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the applied art, taken singly or in combination. For at least this reason, Claims 43-52 are allowable over the applied art, taken singly or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Hall believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 07-0868 in the name of General Electric Company.

Appl. No. 10/711,107
Reply to Office action dated September 24, 2007
Attorney Docket 148263-1

23 January 2008

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Respectfully submitted,

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